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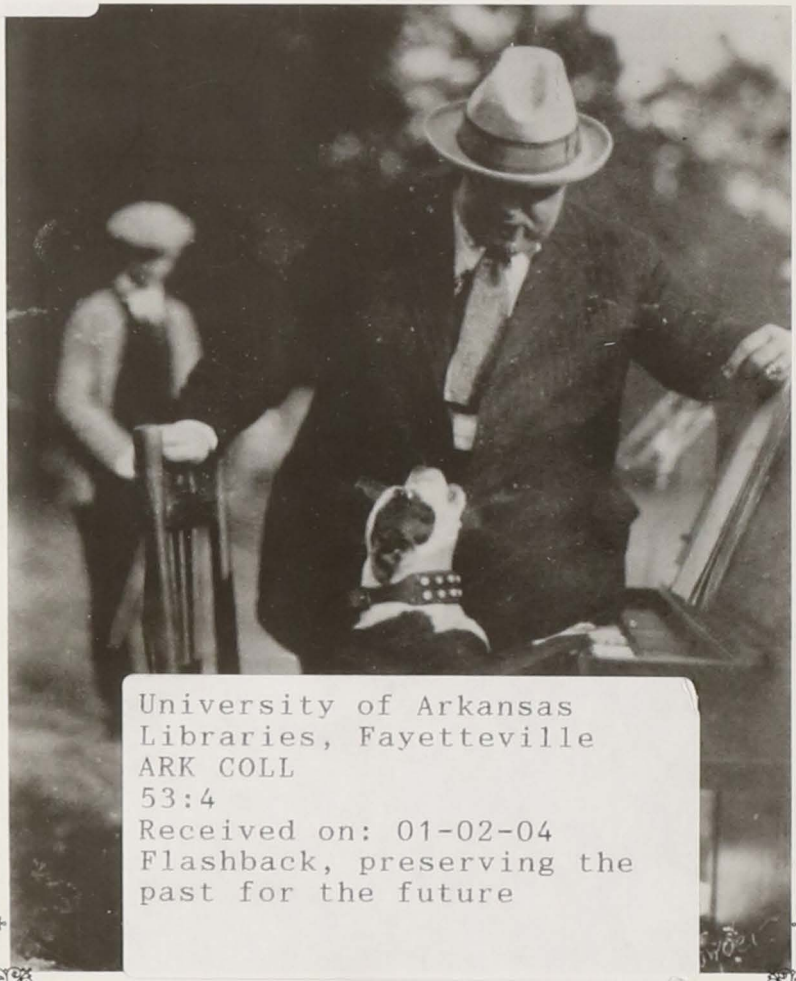

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Volume 53, Number 4 Autumn 2003

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118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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FLASHBACK

Washington County Historical Society
Preserving the Past for the Future
Volume 53 **Autumn 2003** **Number 4**

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Cover: Henry D. Tovey with his dog, Mike. Photograph by Sowder (Courtesy Betty Lighton and Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville).

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Main Street, Prairie Grove, Arkansas, 1942. The Parks family's movie theater was showing "Are Husbands Necessary?" (Courtesy Susan Parks-Spencer).

THE MYRTLE MCCORMICK PARKS DIARY

EDITED BY GRETCHEN GEARHART

Editor's note: Myrtle McCormick Parks of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, kept a daily diary for three of her sons who were serving in the armed forces during World War II. Barry and Donald Parks donated the diary to the Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, in 1987. We are most grateful to the Libraries for allowing us to publish excerpts from the diary. I want especially to thank Anne Prichard of the Special Collections staff and Susan Parks-Spencer, granddaughter of Myrtle Parks, for their invaluable assistance with this project.

By way of explanation, Mrs. Parks's husband, James Clay Parks, was president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company, and the family owned the Beverly Theatre on Main Street.

Additional excerpts from the diary will appear in future issues of *Flashback*.

Saturday, June 7, 1941. Barry and Donald [Parks] went to Fayetteville to find out their grades. They are being solicited to go into the CAA [Civil Aeronautics Administration]. Several have told them that they would be drafted soon after they register July 1 and by taking this training they could be at home and be training at the same time. Bernice [Brooks] invited Barry and Donald for supper. She is having Beulah Stone. Joe [Parks] went to Fay.[Fayetteville] with Jack Barnett, was late getting in.

Sunday, June 22. Donald and Barry took films, got back for S. S. but didn't get to church, something about their car. Joe didn't get up in time to go. Jim [Parks] went to

pasture to see heifers. The big news today is the attack by Germany on Russia. We hope they keep each other busy till the world finds how mistaken both are. Jim and I drove out on the new road which goes through Stonewall community. It is a very good road (a WPA project). It rained on us a little and later we passed over roads where the rain had poured but when we got home it hadn't rained a drop and we do need it so much.

July 18. The new draftees' numbers were drawn yesterday and were in the paper today. Donald's–99–was 330th in the drawing. Barry's was _____.

Friday, May 22, 1942. Barry took the milk and came back with a letter from Donald. He has been transferred to another unit where he will be stationed until he receives his appointment as Aviation Cadet. This was Jim's day to go to Fayetteville to meet with the Tire-Rationing Board, so he bathed and got away as soon as he could. Barry and Tip took a long walk out north of town. He said he had to take shelter under a tree until a shower was over; there was some hail, too. Tip killed and ate a rabbit. I wrote to Donald tonight. Jim brought me an ashtray from Florence [Phillips–owner of Southern Mercantile Company] which she bought in Mexico. She went to Mexico with a group of Federated Club members after the meeting in Fort Worth. She said the State Department permitted it for its Good Neighbor value.

Friday, June 12. Barry didn't work today. He got another furlough extension. Mama [Mamie McCormick] brought me some of her regal lilies, they are beautiful and perfume the house. I washed out some towels, this muddy, rainy weather has used towels unusually fast. Brother

[Grover McCormick] arrived home from Washington today. He came up to tell me of his trip and the things he and Donald had seen together. While he was talking we received a wire from Donald that he would be home on a 5-day furlough, arriving in Fayetteville at 8 in the morning. It seemed too good to be true.

Saturday, June 13. Last night was quite a night. The boys were late getting home, then about 2 there was a terrific wind and thunderstorm. We all got up putting down windows quickly as possible, then went back to bed but I couldn't go to sleep for the longest time. My nerves haven't been too good for several days. Donald called about 6:00 AM from Fay. He arrived sooner than we expected. Jim hurried to dress to go after him. Barry heard us and came down. He went, too. I got breakfast. I felt sure Donald had not eaten. He looks so well and it is so wonderful to have him home. He took a bath and said he wanted to put on civilian clothes; when he came back from town this morning he said he should have worn his uniform, hardly anyone would speak to him, they all thought he was Barry. Arthur [McCormick] didn't recognize him till he was right at him and Guy Skelton talked to him thinking he was Barry. Mama came up to see him. Cousin Mallie [Dyer] was here in the afternoon. I swept upstairs. Donald came up from town about 5:00 o'clock to wash his uniform. I helped him a little. He only has two, said they didn't have enough to issue him more. It's hard for him to keep them clean with so few. They all went to Fayetteville tonight. Jim and I went to bed before they got back.

Monday, August 10. This is the day Barry left for the army. He wanted to get off to catch the 10 o'clock bus but

didn't. He delivered the milk and went to town. Said he wanted to get some money but forgot it and had to go back. Came back by for some of the CAA books. Jim took him to Fay. He went to Court House to vote. Owen, Jimmie Bell and "Baby" [Darwin] Delap were on the same bus going to Little Rock. Bernice brought her ironing board for me to keep for her. Later she and Willard [Brooks] brought the blue chair. Joe didn't come for dinner. Bobby George and another little boy came while it was raining looking for Joe and stayed quite a while. I gave them a raincoat so that they could go home. I worked in the garden a little and gathered some tomatoes. Claudie was late with the cows. Joe couldn't wait so Jim had to milk. Jim went to Lincoln tonight, something about election. When Joe came in he said he and Buddy [Helm] had been riding with Johnnie. J. and Jack [Harlan] were out riding, too. I don't know what the boys would do without J.'s and Johnnie's cars. Johnnie, Joe, J. and Jack–a lot of Jays.

Tuesday, August 11. Beautiful day. I washed. Cousin Mallie came, doesn't look as well as usual. Joe working at Sterling [Drugstore]. Didn't come to dinner, neither did Jim. We had several pages typed letter from James Fay. An interesting but involved account of a deal with Al Van Rouke and Anne Nichols, writers of "Abie's Irish Rose" and "Dear John." Sounds wonderful for them (he and Janet). He said they were coming down as soon after as they could. Jim took Mama and me down to vote. He went to Fay. to-night. Dolph [Helm] went with him. Barry called to-night. Said he was fine. Goes to Kelly Field to-morrow. Abbot [Johnston] was with him at the Hotel Marion, the same that Jack Holt's

part of the state have resigned to go teach in the Japanese Colony in Southeastern Arkansas. There does seem to be too much difference in salaries but some folks seem to begrudge them any schooling at all. After all they are American citizens, I suppose. Agnes brought me home and after I got out of the car, she stayed talking so long that I nearly roasted in the sun, we went at 2:30 had a short meeting and it was 5 min. till 5:00 when I came in the house. They are making definite plans to leave soon. Mama heard he [Dr. Cecil Riggall] is to be sent to Fort Sam Houston. I made 4½ qts. pear honey. Donald liked it so much last year, I hope he can come soon to try this. Mr. Bird was here yesterday. He told Joe he would do anything he could for this theatre, it had been such a good account, never giving any trouble. Cousin Mallie came about 7:00 to "hear from the boys."

Friday, September 18. We had letters from Donald and Barry. I wrote to Barry. The American Legion is collecting scrap metal today. Jim and I spent most of the morning getting ours out. The old stoves in the barn shed took considerable moving of boards and odds and ends to get to them. The truck came just as we finished. Mama and Cousin Mallie came but soon left, concluded we were too involved, I guess. Jeanne called that something was wrong with the switchboard. When she plugged some of the numbers she could hear the whole board. She couldn't find Henry [Nelson]. This is Tire-Rationing Day and everyone who wants a tire tried to see Jim. One man came up and several are waiting to see him downtown. Bobbie Lee brought me 4 large sweet potatoes. Mama has company, Cousin Ada McCormick from Virginia. I don't know her married name.

She has been visiting the Winchesters and McWhorters in Fayetteville. She is a sister of Cousin Emma Sofsky. Joe brought a letter from Jean [Findiesen, Janet Parks's mother] written in Michael Anne's [Parks] name and signed by drawing an outline of her little hands. Sweet! Barry and Donald got letters from Clyde Ellis regretting to inform them they didn't get Rural Route. Elbert Beatty did. Joe said Bird Oliver got mad and walked out last night because Joe asked Goldie McClellan Martin to take her crying baby out. Both families left. Joe walked home with Billie Lynch, Buddy with Lela Swain. Donald called tonight again. He has the same trouble with his eyes that Barry had but was to try again tomorrow. Said he might be in Nashville about two weeks.

Saturday, September 26. Started raining in the night, just poured. Turned cold this morning after rain stopped. Joe made a fire in coal stove. Jim went to Fay., took speaker to radio. Mr. Smith said he would have to have it. Joe got out the coat to Donald's brown suit. It fitted perfectly and he wore it to town. Dollie Anne [McCormick] came for a music lesson, the first one since school closed last spring. Ruth [Mrs. Arthur McCormick] brought her. She was on her way to take up tickets at the theatre. I called Mr. Long [B. B., Presbyterian minister] to tell him I don't feel equal to cleaning the church today. He said he would go over and straighten things. Jim brought the radio but decided, after some difficulty, to wait and let Joe connect it, which he did very nicely. It certainly is improved and it's a great comfort not to have to plug in at the outlet when we want to turn it on. I answered Donald's letter.

Monday, October 5. Jim saw Grady Helm and family pass in car. Lena [Helm] said at church yesterday they were rather expecting them. I called to hear from Mama. Irene answered, said she was feeling much better. I wrote to Donald and Barry, got a letter from Donald. Jim listened to the game. The Cardinals won their 4th game and the World Series is over. Joe and Jim are delighted. I called Aunt Mattie to tell her that Donald said he and Kenneth [McCormick] had been together and that Kenneth looked so well. Mary and Miss Bess [Cummings] came to get some sweet peppers to make pickle. They asked me to go with them tonight to the program the UDC is sponsoring, admission to be scrap metal or rubber. I dressed and waited for them, finally at 8:00 concluded they hadn't understood that I had said I would go. I kept watching for their car, forgot that the street in front of Sharps' is blocked where they are crossing with gas pipeline from Cummings to the School House. So I started on with my scrap (not very light). They picked me up on the way. Lutie [Cunningham] had charge of the program, it was typical. Geraldine Bolling did a drum major act which was amateurish but showed considerable promise.

Thursday, October 8. Mama wanted to go shopping and Jim thought we should go to Wade Hudgins' funeral, so we planned to go early and do the shopping before the funeral at 4:00. Mama came up for dinner and we got off as soon as possible. She wanted to get me a new dress but we didn't find anything. She bought herself a new hat and everyday shoes for both of us. She decided not to go to funeral. Lena and Jim had been down to see the family and I met them in town, we went on to the Baptist Church. There

Myrtle McCormick, age 16 (Courtesy Susan Parks-Spencer).

James Fay, Donald, and Barry Parks, 1920 (Courtesy Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville).

Barry Parks while stationed in Florida, 1943 (Courtesy Susan Parks-Spencer).

Donald Parks while stationed at Miami Beach, Florida, 1944 (Courtesy Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville).

were so few of the family. Wade was Helen's twin brother; she and Mr. Wiggans [C. B.] and their daughter [Ann], then Ella Hurst and Adeline [Blakely], Miss Lizzie [Carl] and Lena and Jim and I seemed to be the family. It seemed odd but perfectly appropriate to see everyone so solicitous of poor old Adeline. It was one time a negro had a place of honor in that church. She has been like a mother to all of them but Wade was her special charge when he was a baby. Miss Lizzie and Lena went to the cemetery with the family, Jim and I went back to town. We talked a while with Mrs. Roberts, Roy Roberts' mother. I didn't recognize her but Jim did. I envy him his talent for knowing who people are. We also saw the Silverman twins while we were talking. We came back by Miss Grace's, I had left my coat and a package there, she asked about all the family.

October 14. Joe told me about the Arkansas Times sportswriter having been "hazed" by the football team because they objected to what he had written about them. Shaved his head, applied oil of cloves, made him eat the words in the newspaper. Sounds heathenish for any body to do, but for college students it certainly is disgraceful, especially "ganging up on him." Mama called me, said she had been up to see Cousin Mallie. I have been wondering why she hadn't been here since last Friday. Very unusual! I went to Study Club at Mrs. Lillards', she was at school but the house was in "apple pie" order. She has some unusually beautiful vases which I have admired each time I have been there and I was certainly surprised to learn that she had painted them. Had a letter from Donald, he is enjoying running the machines at a post theatre. The cows are failing

in milk. Mrs. Thomas said she thought they were getting persimmons in the pasture, that that would do it.

Thursday, October 22. Clear and cool. Joe told me this moning about the girl projectionist at Bentonville being burned to death Tuesday night. Her brother, who was to have gone to the army next Monday, was in the booth with her. He said the explosion blew him through the door, he was badly burned but not fatally, I think. He said it was caused by her dropping a film. Joe said he rather doubted that that alone could have caused it. She was rewinding it they said. It's a terrible thing to have happened, she was taking over for her brother. Had a letter from Donald, he said he had been mentioned for chief operator. Ruth and I were to furnish salad for the luncheon at Mrs. Brooks. I fixed apple and dressing, went by Ruth's, she had celery and nuts to add. She had the car and drove down. She said Bernice was enjoying army life, had a number of new dresses, several of them evening because they go out so much at night. Willard had given her a new sterling silver compact. Ruth and I left at 2:00 to go to church for Home Mission book review. She had promised Emma Cook to come. I had one of the chapters. Clara Blakemore showed the letter she and Raleigh had received congratulating them on Frank Glen's [Blakemore] having been received for pilot training. It doesn't seem possible. She said his eyes were 20/20. Louise Thornton said Lawrence is stationed at Congress Hotel, Chicago. I gave her James Fay's [Parks] address. Barry called tonight. The operator said J. C. Parks at Denver, Colo. was calling Mrs. J. C. Parks. I didn't know what to think, but Jim guessed before I did who it was and made a dash for the phone. He is to be

at Buckley Field, thought he probably would be there two or three months. It was wonderful to hear him. I certainly was surprised. I went to show. Jim and I looked at flashlights to send the boys for birthday. I hope they don't have any. Everything they showed us was so large and I wanted them small enough for their pocket.

Friday, October 23. Coldest morning for some time. Jim and Joe went to Fayetteville. Jim took Cousin Mallie to hospital for checkup. She came by here "to save him from going down there" though she hadn't told him. But he came by here first to bring Donald's pictures. I'm so glad to have them, I don't think they flatter him one bit but they look like him and I can't keep my eyes off them. Mama came and was so pleased. I tried to write to the boys and get the diary to date but had so many interruptions. Cousin Mallie came back this afternoon, Dollie Anne for her lesson, Joseph to borrow wheelbarrow, Byron to borrow cord for electric coffee-maker, etc. Jim and Joe were late, got the flashlights at Fay. I'm afraid they are going to be late getting to the boys in time for birthday.

Tuesday, November 10. Joe got home from Little Rock this morning, came in while Jim and I were eating breakfast. They came home on the bus, arriving in Fay. at 4 A.M. He and Buddy tried to sleep while waiting for the bus home. Neither of them passed the test. Joe was 3rd out of 17. Only two passed. He made 81, passing grade was 83. He was quite disappointed, says he is going to try it again in 30 days. He brought me a box of candy. Yesterday I was wishing I had some chocolate candy. Last night Jim brought me a box from Fay. and then this from Joe! The Red Cross has organized a

surgical dressing unit here. We met this afternoon for the first time in rooms over the Bank. Several Red Cross officials were here. Mrs. Paul Lewis was in charge and explained in detail the different things required. She is very charming. I walked up with Ruth and Eva Riggall [Mrs. Frank]. Went to see "Take a Letter, Darling" tonight. Joe was out at the farm this afternoon. Janet [Mrs. James Fay Parks] told him about Mr. Long's calling this morning. She invited him to stay for lunch. Said she insisted "too dog-gone" much. He stayed.

Wednesday, November 18. Like a spring day. Showers this afternoon. Ruth Nelson put a note in a milk bottle saying, "Jim, why don't you turn that old cow dry?" I knew Clara Bell's milk had been tasting a little old part of the time and had tried to make Mary's go around for the customers but didn't always have quite enough. I don't like to sell milk when it gets old or scarce. I called her to say I was sorry and that we just didn't have enough to supply her any more. Jim went to Fay. Joe went with him to get film, "Shepherd of the Ozarks." I asked him, teasingly, if he was sure it had come, this makes the third time he has gone after it, no results the other two. He called Mr. McCartney and he said it was there. We had letters from Donald and Barry. Donald told of a visit from the Post Commander, Barry of an overnight trip into Denver. I went to Mrs. Sharp's for the Fed. Club meeting. Her house looks so nice, the floors are beautiful. Mrs. Long, Lucile Brewster and I had papers. I had some compliments on mine. It was on "Schools and Vocational Guidance," something I am intensely interested in.

Tuesday, December 1. Joe stayed out at James Fay's until very late again last night. They were developing pictures. He drove Gordon's [Phillips] car in for the last time. They had the tank filled yesterday. He coasted to town this morning then drove to Buck Giles' and coasted the rest of the way except for the little hump near the house, and there it will stay till Phil comes for it. The Rationing Board will be plenty active today. Jim was supposed to be in Fay. at 9:30 but didn't get off till nearly 10:00. He had some difficulty taking his bath. The oil tank of the water heater went dry yesterday and I couldn't get it started last night. Both of us worked with it but no luck, I finally got it started this morning but he had to heat water for his bath. As they say, "You never miss the water till the well runs dry." Mr. Long phoned to know if James Fay was here, said he saw the car out front and wanted to see him. I didn't tell him I was sure he was still in bed. Mama came while I was writing to Donald and Barry. Joe took letters down. I went to Red Cross Rooms this afternoon. Came back by Mama's. James Fay called, wanted Jim to get copy of telegram that came today about their reservations tomorrow. He told us to come out tonight. We went to see "Santa Fe Trail" first. There were very few there. Arthur thought it was because it was the first day of gas rationing but maybe it was just because it is the last night of the picture. James Fay and Janet were printing pictures, I helped him and let Janet talk to Jim. She gave us hot tea and cookies. I thought it would keep us awake but drank it anyhow. We stayed till after 12:00. Joe and the boys played cards in the lobby. He got home just as we came in.

Sunday, December 20. Jim and Joe were late getting up, they stayed downtown till late last night playing pitch with Bert, M. J. [Sharp], Johnnie and Dick [Nolan]. James Fay called at 9:00, said they were at Roy Roberts', met him on the train. Janet wasn't feeling well, ate pork and mince pie on the train. Joe went for them. He had to take the films anyhow. I went to S.S. and church. Mrs. Fenton had asked us for dinner. I had to leave at 3:00 to come in for rehearsal. Bobbie Lee was here when I came from church, had brought me a very pretty tiny Christmas tree. Bernice and Willard came to see James Fay, Janet and the Baby just as we were finishing dinner. Naturally they were very complimentary about Michael Anne. Jim will let no one hold the baby when he's around if he can help it. He and Bernice had lots of fun calling each other names over it. He finally let Bernice have her, after a while she gave her to me and she went to sleep in my arms. Which reminds me of Rickenbacker's radio speech today. We all thought it wonderful. After the program tonight I went home with Mama. We went up to Arthur's and he was quite excited about the news of the Russian advance. Beautiful and moon-shiny tonight but very cold.

Thursday, December 24. Weather like spring. I called Helen, made an appointment for 10:30 to have my hair set. I left my breakfast dishes unwashed. Jim took me to town, he went to post office and came back with letter from Donald, who spoke of a picture "Prelude to War" which he said he had been showing over and over. Said it was extremely interesting and they wanted every soldier at the post to see it. I came by Mama's and since she has not been able to get anyone to clean the house I decided it was up to me to do it.

Ruth came over, helped me put the leaves in the table. Dollie Anne got a wasp sting on her finger when she opened the front door, it was on the door knob. She cried. I put it in wet soda and it soon felt better. Joe has been out at James Fay's all afternoon. He went to town, came back with a set of Pyrex, 3 bowls and a pie plate. Said it was his gift to me. It's very nice and I was glad to have it. Jim gave me a box of candy and a pair of stockings. Mrs. Sharp brought me a little Christmas tree. I put it on the table in the living room and put our gifts under it. Also, the ones that I had wrapped to take to the farm. Jim got a toy truck in the mail pasted with "C" stickers and checked with all sorts of things which he was supposed to be eligible for. There was no card with it but Jim was sure it was from Alan Banks who is on the rationing board with him. Cousin Mallie phoned, wanted to know if the baby was here and other questions which made me feel she expected me to ask her for dinner tomorrow, but I didn't think it would meet with general approval. I was very tired tonight but managed to make cranberry sauce and dough for rolls before I went to bed. Also to decorate the tiny tree Bobbie Lee gave me. I stuck little gum drops on the tips of branches to use it for centerpiece on the dining table at Mama's tomorrow. [To be continued]

ADDENDUM

Proofreader Charles Richardson contributed the following explanation to the December 23 entry: In his book, *Stalingrad*, Anthony Bevon wrote the following, "On the evening of 23 December, Hoth's panzer corps received the order to pull back, without any explanation. 'Right down to the most junior soldier it was absolutely clear,' wrote General Raus, 'that this signified defeat at Stalingrad.'" This describes the end of the effort to rescue the German army surrounded at Stalingrad and the beginning of the retreat in Russia.

Mrs. Parks's mention of the "news of the Russian advance" probably refers to the push back of the German army leading to this order.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAIRIE GROVE, ARKANSAS

The First United Methodist Church of Prairie Grove celebrated one hundred years of the sanctuary on October 5, 2003. The following is an excerpt from the commemorative booklet.

The First United Methodist Church in Prairie Grove was originally known as the Prairie Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, published by the Goodspeed Publishing Company in 1889, records that, prior to its organization in 1869, our church was for several years an appointment of the Cane Hill Circuit, and services were held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The newly created Prairie Grove Circuit included the Sulphur Springs Methodist Episcopal Church (circa 1850) "about five miles south of Prairie Grove," which lists John Mock and wife among its original members. This same John Mock is also listed as a founding member of the Prairie Grove church. Others in the Prairie Grove Circuit were the Illinois Chapel Class, three miles east of Prairie Grove (probably organized as early as 1842); Viney Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1853), which had among the eight founding members Thomas West, Armind West, James West, and Jetta West; and the Stonewall Class (1887) which held its services "in a school-house three miles west of Prairie Grove."

The site for our church was deeded to the trustees by James and Lucy Neal and his mother, Signail Buchanan, on September 4, 1879. A wooden building was erected in 1880 at a cost of $1,500 and dedicated in 1881. Eight years later John Mock, S. E. Rogers, and Julia A. Rogers deeded to the trustees land just south of the first property. A building on the second property was used as a parsonage until the present parsonage was willed to the church trustees in 1908 by B. H. Harrison in memory of his wife.

The *History of the First United Methodist Church* by George E. Wiswell in 1986, which includes information gathered by Fred Carlisle and J. Ed Rogers in 1966, notes that a new church building was constructed in 1903 after the old church was razed. The name on the cornerstone reads Wesleyan Methodist Church; this was changed to the Methodist Church at the Prairie Grove conference on May 28, 1950. The building was constructed mostly by church members and local labor. The bricks were manufactured by the Terpening Tile factory, located near the Illinois River east of Prairie Grove, and were hauled by teams and wagons. Church members M. A. Dorman, C. E. Woolverton, and J. Ed Rogers furnished two teams, which hauled six hundred bricks per load, "and 'it took a pretty good team' to ford the river and come up the Pittman hill. Some loads required a double team."

Subsequent additions to the 1903 building include the Fellowship Hall and Educational Building in 1932. The upper floor houses Sunday School classrooms, and in early years the Fellowship Hall was equipped with a stage and velvet curtains, which were removed in the late 1960s in order to enlarge the kitchen. The Mock Annex on the north side was added in 1953. In 1965 an addition was constructed south of the Fellowship Hall as a chapel; the space is now used as a teen room, nursery, and classroom.

The original steeple and bell tower in 1903 held a 500-pound brass bell with an interesting history. It was given to the church by E. H. Dorman, Joyce Dorman Cunningham's grandfather, who emigrated to the United States from England. The bell is embossed "Rumsey Mfg. Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1883." After years of weathering and deterioration the original steeple was removed and the church as without a steeple until 1969 when, as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Thompson, another steeple of different design was build in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs.

J. H. Zellner. In 1986 funds were provided by Herman Franklin Thompson and his wife to construct a new steeple patterned after the 1903 original. It was given in memory of his parents, Mack and Julia Thompson, and his grandparents, J. H. and Betty Zellner. The bell presented by E. H. Dorman remains in use to this time.

Stained glass windows in the sanctuary are memorials to Mrs. Margaret Mock, J. J. Baggett, B. A. Carl, D. N. McCormick, John T. Carl, the Young Ladies Class, and Rev. J. H. Forrest and his wife. The rose window on the west side of the sanctuary, given in 1987 by Ruetta Carman in memory of her husband, L. A. Carman, was created by artist Dane Greer with antique glass imported from Italy.

Many men served as circuit pastors in the 1800s. Goodspeed notes in 1889 that the Prairie Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had 107 members and had been served by sixteen pastors since 1869. According to the Carlisle and Wiswell histories, Prairie Grove became a "station" in 1904, and records in the archives of Hendrix College reveal that our church has since been served by the following pastors:

1904-05 J. W. House
1905-06 J. M. McAnally
1906-07 Elton Wilson
1907-09 J. E. McConnell
1909-13 Fred A. Lark
1913-14 W. B. Wolf
1914-17 Fred B. Hamilton
1917-18 Thomas A. Back
1918-20 James A. Reynolds
1920-23 Ernest G. Downs
1923-26 Charles Sherman
1926-29 Edward Forrest
1929-34 E. E. Stevenson
1934-37 W. A. Lindsey
1937-41 J. M. Harrison
1941-44 Ewing T. Wayland
1944-47 Alf A. Eason
1947-50 Harold D. Womack
1950-54 S. O. Patty
1954-55 W. Glenn Bruner
1955-56 J. J. Decker
1956-58 Verlia F. Harris
1958-61 Dewey Dark
1961-70 Harvey Hazelwood
1970-74 Vernon Paysinger
1974-76 Ray Edwards
1976-81 James Harrison
1981-88 Robert Crossman
1988-2003 Joseph Sherman
2003- Audie Long

HENRY D. TOVEY: A LIFETIME IN A "FISH BOWL"

RITA ANN MANSKE

The years 1908–1933 witnessed a life lived to the fullest here in Fayetteville in a small house on Lafayette Street known as the Fish Bowl. This was the life of Henry Doughty Tovey, music professor at the University of Arkansas.

Tovey, originally from Illinois, came to the university in 1908 after teaching at Ouachita College for three years. It did not take long for him to make his mark. He was soon to be known as a very special character—flamboyant, extravagant, and extremely generous.

As a nationally and internationally known musician, Professor Tovey was at one time ranked as one the eighty best pianists in the United States. Every year he formed orchestras to travel on cruises to Europe, conducted summer music camps, and often served as organist for St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the university chapel. Tovey made the first wireless broadcast in Arkansas from the microphone of KFMQ and also broadcast from station KUOA. He played musical offerings from his own phonograph record collection—the largest in the state.

As president of the state Music Educators' Association, he regularly divided his record collection for distribution to elementary and middle-level schools all over Arkansas. He included notes on the pieces the students would be hearing, descriptions of the instruments, explanations of why the music was important, and many other valuable teaching details.

Rita Ann Manske is a twenty-year resident of Fayetteville after living most of her life in Crawford County. She offers this essay in memory of Carolyn Rainey Harris and in thanksgiving for their history walks together. She wishes to thank Betty Lighton for granting permission to use photographs from the Lighton Family Papers in Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries.

Another facet of Tovey's life that left an enduring legacy was his great enthusiasm for special events and organizations. He was the prime organizer and first official president of Rotary Club No. 829 (founded March 1, 1921) and in 1922 helped to develop Fayetteville's first nine-hole golf course, which led to the forming of Fayetteville's first country club. An earlier venture was the leasing of a lot opposite the courthouse where he and others fitted up an airdome Vaudeville productions and picture shows were offered there, with the Ozark Theater being leased for winter quarters. In addition he was an avid photographer. His many photograph albums are available through the Shiloh Museum in Springdale, Arkansas.

On April 10, 2000, the late Carolyn Rainey Harris and I took a walk through the Fish Bowl on Lafayette Street, and she very kindly shared with me her memories of the house and Professor Tovey. She immediately recognized the front stoop as original to the house and showed me where the Fish Bowl sign had hung. At that time the original fireplace and hardwood floors were in excellent condition. The dining room still contained the distinctive recessed arch which was home to the telephone. Carolyn told me of Tovey's love of entertaining. He was a wonderful cook and enjoyed playing cards. The home was the scene of lavish entertainment and intellectual discussions of every nature. 614 Lafayette also became known as a veritable museum of travel souvenirs. Tovey collected elephant statues from all over the world. Carolyn remembered him as a gentlemen of stately, almost domineering presence, witty and interesting–known for his eccentric ways. It was not unusual for him to suddenly disappear from his own party.

Betty Lighton, who as a child lived across the street from Tovey, remembers his little house totally crammed with mementos—especially the fireplace mantel. A friend once told him the mantel was too crowded. "Henry, you should have only

three things on the mantel." To which Tovey replied, "I have only three things on the mantel—elephants, vases, and candles." It was the job of Betty and her sister to assist Tovey on Christmas morning as he opened his many gifts by keeping a list for this thank-you notes. Lighton remembers Tovey as totally happy with life in Fayetteville and his little house.

The Fish Bowl, 614 Lafayette, Fayetteville. Photograph by J. H. Fields (Courtesy Betty Lighton and Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville).

Above all Tovey was known as a benefactor to many struggling male students at the university. He provided room and board (in exchange for chauffeuring services) in addition to substantial gifts of financial and practical aid. And there is one gift Tovey gave the university for which I, as a university alumna, am particularly grateful. In 1909 Brodie Payne, an alumnus, won a contest for writing the words for our Alma Mater. Tovey then

set the words to music. He considered it the most important accomplishment of his career.

With the beginning of a new semester, if you walk near Old Main and Carnall Hall (now the Inn at Carnall Hall) and glance over to the street, you may see the faint shadow of an antique car being driven by a young man and in the back the rotund form of Henry D. Tovey holding close his Boston bull terrier.

A note on 614 Lafayette Street

This property originally belonged to Lafayette Gregg, and that part of Lafayette Street where Henry D. Tovey's house stands was once known as Ida Street after Gregg's daughter Ida.

Tovey purchased the house on October 31, 1917, from Leland Bryan and lived there until his death, October 12, 1933.

SOURCES

Abstract: Parcel number 765-06028-000. Washington County Courthouse.

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Fayetteville Daily Democrat. Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13, 1933; Nov. 14, 1933. *Flashback* 1 (1951).

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Simpson, Ethel C. *Image and Reflection: A Pictorial History of the University of Arkansas.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1990.

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DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS 2003

The Washington County Historical Society chose John Miles Lewis and Jean and Keith Newhouse as recipients of its Distinguished Citizen Award for 2003. Presentation of the awards took place at the Society's annual meeting on October 5.

Born in 1939, John Miles Lewis is a native of Fayetteville. His parents were Herbert A. and Gertrude Miles Lewis. His family has figured conspicuously in the affairs of Washington County for more than five generations. After serving in the United States Marines and working in financial institutions in Dallas, Texas, he returned to Fayetteville in 1969 to serve as vice-president of the First National Bank and five years later as its president and CEO. In 1985 he left First National and spearheaded efforts that resulted in the organization of the Bank of Fayetteville, which opened in 1987.

Lewis's contributions to the community include his participation in the UA Genesis Technology Incubator, the revitalization of the Fayetteville Square and Downtown Fayetteville, the development of the Beaver Water District, the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, and the Northwest Arkansas Council. He has served on the school boards of both Fayetteville and Washington County and the boards of the Fayetteville Public Education Foundation and Fayetteville Economic Education, the University of Arkansas National Development Council, Washington Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Walton Arts Center, and the Fayetteville Public Library. He has served on the boards of directors of the Bank of Lincoln, Fayetteville City Hospital, and Southwestern Electric Power Company, has been president of the United Fund and an advocate of affordable housing and other community development projects, particularly in his role as creator of the Community Development Corporation as a bank subsidiary

A student of history, Lewis is chairman of the Fayetteville Heritage Committee and has been personally responsible for

having at least three buildings in Fayetteville placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lewis is married to the former Helen Marie Graham and is the father of Jay and Julianne Lewis.

Jean and Keith Newhouse moved to Fayetteville in 1959 and soon became involved with the Washington County Historical Society through their interest in Civil War history. They worked to raise the funds to buy Headquarters House, Ridge House, and the Yell Law Office and served as editors of *Flashback* from 1974 to 1978 and again from 1982 to 1993. Jean also served as treasurer and later as president from 1992 to 1993. Her other volunteer activities include offices with the Fayetteville Symphony Guild and the hospice program at Washington Regional Medical Center.

Keith was born in 1917 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. An artist, he trained at the Art Institute of Chicago. He was an Army Air Force pilot in World War II and flew thirty-three combat missions over Europe. After the war he bought an art studio, where he remained until 1957. In Fayetteville he became an insurance salesman and served as president for the Life Underwriters, member of the Planning Commission for the city, board member of City Hospital, and president of the North Side Rotary Club. Keith died June 3, 2000.

Jean McDowell was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She moved to Minneapolis at an early age and worked as a secretary. She, too, had an interest in airplanes, and attended aeronautical engineering classes at night. Realizing there was no place for women in aviation at that time, she did not finish her degree. She and Keith met in 1939 and were married in 1941. Jean is now an active member of the Butterfield Trail Village community.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Flashback readers: Your help would be greatly appreciated in gathering any possible information especially photographs about the following: Fayette Junction, George H. Pettigrew, J. A. Ferguson, Hugh F. McDanield, J. Frank Mayes, Pitkin and Mayes Lumber Company, Charlesworth Hardwood Lumber Company, Sandford Hardwood Lumber Company, Fayetteville Wagon Wood and Lumber Company, J. H. Phipps Lumber Company, Byrnes Lumber Company, Ferguson Lumber Company; Red Star Spoke Factory, Ozark Wagon Company, Sligo Wagon Wood Company, J. P. Brower or Brower Veneer Company, Edith Adams-Davies Brower, William Charlesworth, Calona Yoes Charlesworth, William Newton Jones, Matilda E. Lewis Jones, Ozark Livery Stable, Capt. A. L. Thompson, W. M. Simmons, Dr. Frederick Burkey (veterinarian), Claude Herbert Sandford, Ellis Duncan, Sandford and Son Machine Shop (West Dickson St.), Erastus L. Pitkin and his wife Emily Barnes or son Joel Pitkin, Woolsey-Pitkin community/area circa 1870-1900, Mrs. J. C. Thom (? – heir of Pitkin), Alexander McCartney, Norman McCartney, Elizabeth Overstreet McCartney, Snow Bird Coal Co., Paddy-Corley Iron Company, Blewford (community?), E. A. Budd, Quicktown, Parksdale Addition, J. A. Parks, Meadow Vale Subdivision, Tom Hargis, Hargis Canners, Thomas & Drake Canning Co., Ezra Drake, Vida and Bill Drake, wagon production in Fayetteville, and canning industry in Fayetteville. Contact Denele Campbell 479-839-2475 or e-mail dcampbell@sprynet.com.

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Renewal Reminder

Washington County Historical Society

If you have not renewed your membership for 2004, please do so as soon as possible to avoid missing any issues of *Flashback*. You should have received a letter and application card, but if you did not, you can select one of the membership categories below and send your check to:

Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

- ☐ $15 Senior, student, public libraries
- ☐ $25 General Membership
- ☐ $50 Trail Blazer
- ☐ $100 Explorer
- ☐ $250 Wagon Master
- ☐ $500 Pioneer
- ☐ $1,000 Statesman
- ☐ $5,000 Empire Builder

Be sure to enclose your name, address, and phone number. If you would like to be on our e-mail list to receive up-to-date information on Society activities, please send us an e-mail at **info@washcohistoricalsociety.org** and say you want to be added to the list.

Of course, if you are not already a member you are most welcome to join.

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